

Department of Public Health  
and Human Services

Section:  
TABLE OF STANDARDS

TANF CASH ASSISTANCE

Subject:  
Monthly Income Standards

**Supersedes:** TANF 001 (07/01/07)

► **References:** ARM 37.78.102; .402; .406; and .420;

► **GENERAL RULE**-- The tables of standards contain the income and benefit standards used to determine financial eligibility for the TANF cash assistance and Post-Employment programs. These standards are based on the number of persons in the assistance unit and set the financial eligibility requirement for the filing/assistance unit as a whole.

The tables of standards also contain the payment standards which are based on the number of persons in the assistance unit for the TANF cash assistance program and are a set amount for the Post-Employment Program.

► There are five sets of income standards. These standards are based on the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or Annotated Rules of Montana (ARM) and are:

1. the gross monthly income standard, based on the **2002** FPL
2. the net monthly income standard, based on the **2002** FPL
3. the benefit standard, based on the **2002** FPL
- 4. the TANF cash assistance payment standard, based on the **2007** FPL and
- 5. the Post-Employment payment standard based on ARM.

► **NOTE:** From the implementation of the TANF cash assistance payment standard, in October 2005, through June 30, 2007, the TANF cash assistance payment standard was based on 33% of the 2005 FPL.

For each benefit month, the total countable income of the filing/assistance unit is first tested against the gross monthly income (GMI) standard; then, (after specified disregards) against the benefit standard. These standards are programmed in TEAMS and do not have to be entered by the worker.

**NOTE:** The net monthly income standard is no longer used in the determination of eligibility but the standard is used in other areas (i.e., the deeming process) so the table will remain in the manual.

Collectively, the filing/assistance unit must pass both income tests as one of the financial eligibility requirements.



If the net countable income is equal to or greater than the Benefit Standard, the household is ineligible. If the net countable income is less than the Benefit Standard, and the unit is otherwise eligible (passes the resource test and all nonfinancial eligibility requirements), the benefit amount for the TANF cash assistance program and/or the Post-Employment Program is determined by subtracting the unit's net countable income from the appropriate payment standard.

**FILING/  
ASSISTANCE  
UNIT SIZE**

The filing/assistance unit size is the number of adults and/or children required to be included in determining eligibility. For example, if the required members are a mother and her two children, the unit size is three (3); if the unit members are a mother, a father, and their three children, the unit size is five (5).

Once the required unit members are entered to TEAMS with the appropriate Participation Code (Section 300), TEAMS counts the 'IN' participants and uses the correct household size for income standards.

**► TEAMS  
PROCESSING**

TEAMS tests the countable income of each unit against the standards for a unit of its size and circumstances. Refer to TANF 602-1 for budgeting procedure.



**GROSS MONTHLY INCOME STANDARDS TO BE USED**  
**(Based on 30% of FY 2002 Federal Poverty Level)**

| <u>Family Size</u> | <u>GMI Per Month</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1                  | \$ 522               |
| 2                  | 703                  |
| 3                  | 884                  |
| 4                  | 1,066                |
| 5                  | 1,249                |
| 6                  | 1,430                |
| 7                  | 1,611                |
| 8                  | 1,793                |
| 9                  | 1,974                |
| 10                 | 2,155                |
| 11                 | 2,337                |
| 12                 | 2,518                |
| 13                 | 2,699                |
| 14                 | 2,880                |
| 15                 | 3,062                |
| 16                 | 3,245                |
| 17                 | 3,426                |
| 18                 | 3,608                |
| 19                 | 3,789                |
| 20                 | 3,970                |



**NET MONTHLY INCOME STANDARDS TO BE USED**  
**(Based on 30% of FY 2002 Federal Poverty Level)**

| <u>Family Size</u> | <u>NMI Per Month</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1                  | \$ 282               |
| 2                  | 380                  |
| 3                  | 478                  |
| 4                  | 576                  |
| 5                  | 675                  |
| 6                  | 773                  |
| 7                  | 871                  |
| 8                  | 969                  |
| 9                  | 1,067                |
| 10                 | 1,165                |
| 11                 | 1,263                |
| 12                 | 1,361                |
| 13                 | 1,459                |
| 14                 | 1,557                |
| 15                 | 1,655                |
| 16                 | 1,754                |
| 17                 | 1,852                |
| 18                 | 1,950                |
| 19                 | 2,048                |
| 20                 | 2,146                |



**BENEFIT STANDARDS TO BE USED**  
**(Based on 30% of FY 2002 Federal Poverty Level)**

| <u>Family Size</u> | <u>Benefit Standard Per Month</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1                  | \$ 221                            |
| 2                  | 298                               |
| 3                  | 375                               |
| 4                  | 452                               |
| 5                  | 530                               |
| 6                  | 607                               |
| 7                  | 684                               |
| 8                  | 761                               |
| 9                  | 838                               |
| 10                 | 915                               |
| 11                 | 991                               |
| 12                 | 1,068                             |
| 13                 | 1,145                             |
| 14                 | 1,222                             |
| 15                 | 1,299                             |
| 16                 | 1,377                             |
| 17                 | 1,454                             |
| 18                 | 1,531                             |
| 19                 | 1,608                             |
| 20                 | 1,685                             |



**PAYMENT STANDARDS TO BE USED**  
**TANF CASH ASSISTANCE**

**(Effective 7/1/07 set at 33% of the FY 2007 Federal Poverty Level)**

| <u>Family<br/>Size</u> | <u>Payment<br/>Standard<br/>Per Month</u> |
|------------------------|---|
| 1                      | \$ 281                                    |
| 2                      | 376                                       |
| 3                      | 472                                       |
| 4                      | 568                                       |
| 5                      | 664                                       |
| 6                      | 759                                       |
| 7                      | 855                                       |
| 8                      | 951                                       |
| 9                      | 1046                                      |
| 10                     | 1142                                      |
| 11                     | 1238                                      |
| 12                     | 1333                                      |
| 13                     | 1429                                      |
| 14                     | 1525                                      |
| 15                     | 1621                                      |
| 16                     | 1716                                      |
| 17                     | 1812                                      |
| 18                     | 1908                                      |
| 19                     | 2003                                      |
| 20                     | 2099                                      |



**PAYMENT STANDARDS TO BE USED**  
**POST-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**

**(Set amount based on ARM)**

| <u>Month<br/>Eligible</u> | <u>Payment<br/>Standard<br/>Per Month</u> |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1                         | \$ 375                                    |
| 2                         | 275                                       |
| 3                         | 175                                       |